

HOUSE RESOLUTION 209
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor the late Jimmy Cole upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor the memory of a remarkable professional who, during his lifetime, rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration," during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2006 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes the late Jimmy Cole, a renowned judge, ring master, and trainer of Walking Horses; and

WHEREAS, a native son of Tennessee, Jimmy Cole's grandfather gave young Jimmy his first horse when he was only eight years of age; he rode his horse to school every day, and for the rest of his life Jimmy Cole was involved in equine sports; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cole showed Roadster to Bike horses, but one of his favorite horses was a stallion named Lucky; although he said Lucky was the meanest horse that ever lived, Mr. Cole showed Lucky 29 times and won 28 blue ribbons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jimmy Cole judged and ringmastered from coast-to-coast, and in addition to Walking Horse Shows, he also ringmastered for the Grand National Morgan Horseshow and many American Standard Bred Horseshows; Mr. Cole also judged the Celebration in 1970 and 1985; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Cole was a founder and charter member of the Mid-South Horse Show Association (MSHSA), and from 1979 to 1985, Mr. Cole was a member of the Board of Directors for the Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association representing the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Jimmy Cole was inducted into the MSHSA Hall of Fame and was named Sportsman of the Year 2003 by that organization; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who valued his family above all else, Jimmy Cole enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, June, for 54 years; sadly, Mr. Cole passed in 2003, only twenty months after his beloved June; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Jimmy Cole has posthumously earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor the memory of the late Jimmy Cole on the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, as we warmly remember his consummate career spent in service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.